

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 22-42 are pending. Claims 1-21 were canceled previously. Claims 22-32 are amended. Support is deemed to be evident from the original claims. New claims 33-42 are added. Support for new claims 33-42 is also deemed to be evident from the original claims. With respect to the amendment to claim 27 changing “electronic components” to LEDs and associated casing (see also claim 38), support is found in at least specification page 7, lines 6-8. Thus, no new subject matter is added.

As an initial matter, pending claims 22-32 have been amended to place them in more traditional format for U.S. prosecution by removing phrases such as “characterized in.” In addition, dependent claims 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 30 have all been amended to include only one of the several alternative features included in each original claim. Those features which were not retained in dependent claims 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 30 are now found in new dependent claims 33-42.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiners for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of May 5, 2009. The Remarks below specifically address the Varaprasad et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0087107) reference and particularly paragraphs 162 and 188 of Varaprasad et al. discussed during the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 22-27, 31, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Varaprasad et al. in view of Brussog (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,236). The Office Action further rejects claims 28-30 over Varaprasad et al. in view of Brussog and further in view of Schaeffer.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of previously pending claims 22-32 (now claims 22-42). Independent claim 22 is directed towards a laminated glazing including

two glass sheets, one or more thermoplastic interlayers, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) inserted between the two glass sheets, and a particular connecting circuit.

The Office Action asserts, and as further discussed during the personal interview, that paragraph 162 of Varaprasad et al. discloses diodes (which could include light emitting diodes) between two laminated glass sheets. Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action's conclusion that paragraph 162 discloses (1) light emitting diodes and (2) diodes between two laminated glass sheets. Paragraph 162 of Varaprasad et al. states in relevant part (referring to Fig. 1) (emphasis added):

[0162] Once the electrochromic device is assembled with polychromic solid film 6, a potential may be applied to the bus bars 7 in order to induce film coloring. The applied potential may be supplied from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, any source of alternating current ("AC") or direct current ("DC") known in the art, provided that, if an AC source is chosen, control elements, such as diodes, should be placed between the source and each of the conductive coatings 4 to ensure that the potential difference between the conductive coatings 4 does not change polarity with variations in polarity of the applied potential from the source. Suitable DC sources are storage batteries, solar thermal cells, photovoltaic cells or photoelectrochemical cells.

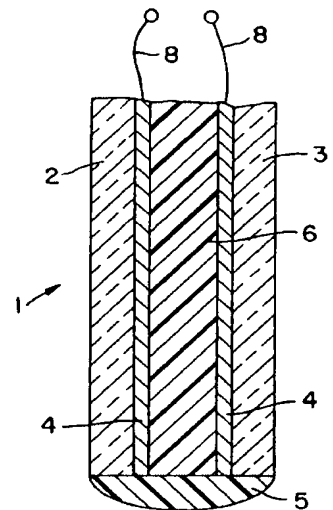


FIG. 1

First, a person of ordinary skill in the art reading Varaprasad et al. paragraph 162 would not understand the reference to “control elements, such as diodes,” to include light emitting diodes. As stated in paragraph 162, the purpose of the diodes in Varaprasad et al. is to ensure that a potential difference between the conductive coatings does not change polarity.

A brief discussion of diodes and light emitting diodes is believed to be helpful. Diodes are junctions of P and N doped materials. The electronic (or control) property of such a junction is to block current in one direction and transmit current in the other direction. When the junction is used for its electronic property, it is commonly called a “diode.” On the

other hand, when the junction is used for its lighting property, it is called a light emitting diode (LED). Light emitting diodes are not used as control elements. Rather, the purpose of light emitting diodes is to emit light.

This understanding is confirmed by a review of the discussions of “Diode” and “Light Emitting Diode” in the Encyclopedia of Electronics (excerpts attached). As the Encyclopedia of Electronics states, uses of “diodes” in electronics include “amplifiers, frequency controllers, oscillators, voltage regulators, switches, and mixers.” P. 293. A later discussion of diode types does refer to LEDs, but simply mentions that they produce visible light when forward biased. P. 297. Further, the separate entry “Light Emitting Diodes” in the encyclopedia emphasizes the point that persons of ordinary skill consider “diodes” and “light emitting diodes” to be quite separate and distinct components. Unlike “diodes,” the uses attributed to light emitting diodes include “lamps and indicators or ... components of displays.” P. 507. Neither the discussion of diode or light emitting diode creates any suggestion that a light emitting diode and a diode are interchangeable. More importantly with respect to Varaprasad et al., there is no suggestion that a light emitting diode would ever be used as a control element.

In short, Applicants respectfully submit a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand the reference to diodes in paragraph 162 in Varaprasad et al. to refer only to classical diodes. Because light emitting diodes are not control elements (but instead emit light), a person of ordinary skill would not understand that the diodes of paragraph 162 refers to light emitting diodes.

Second, a person of ordinary skill in the art reading Varaprasad et al. paragraph 162 would not understand it to teach that the diodes are between the two glass sheets. Paragraph 151 states that the source may be connected by electrical leads 8 to the

conducting strips 7. Paragraph 162 then states that the “control elements, such as diodes, should be placed between the source and each of the conductive coatings 4.” Thus “between” the source and the conductive coatings must be between the red lines as shown to the right, which is not between the glass sheets 2, 3. Accordingly, even if diode somehow did include a light emitting diode (which Applicants strongly contest), paragraph 162 does not teach the diode between the glass sheets as recited in claim 22.

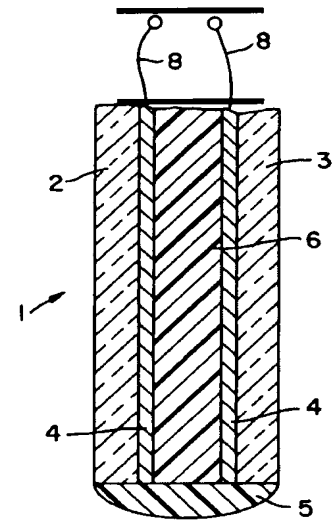


FIG. 1

During the interview, the Examiner also suggested that Figure 2 (below)

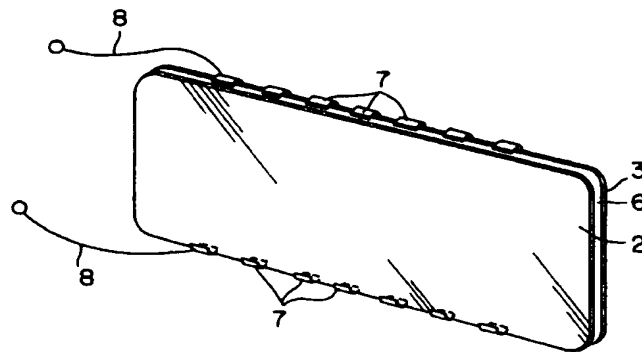


FIG. 2

further supported the assertion that the diodes of paragraph 162 could be between the glass sheets 2, 3 because they were not visible in Figure 2, relying on the proposition that the Examiner should give the broadest reasonable interpretation to the prior art. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion.

As a preliminary matter, the Patent Office is to apply the broadest reasonable interpretation of the *claimed invention* to the prior art (MPEP 2111), not the broadest possible interpretation of the prior art. The Office should view a particular reference as a person of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably understand that reference. More to the point here, Applicants submit that no information can be gleaned from Figure 2 alone with respect to the location of the diode. Similarly, Varaprasad et al. also discusses the source, but nothing can

be understood about the location of the source from looking at Figure 2 alone because the source is also not shown. Moreover, paragraph 151 explains that “an exposed [i.e., not between the glass sheets] portion of the conductive coating 4 should be provided for the bus bars 7 to adhere.” Thus, the only teaching of connecting *any* element to the conductive coatings 4 requires the conductive coating extend outside of the sheets (rather than between them) to allow for connection to the conductive coatings. Again, this teaching, as with paragraph 162, only supports the view that a diode connected to the coatings would be connected outside of the glass sheets. For these reasons, Applicants submit that Varaprasad et al. does not disclose or suggest to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the location of any diode is between the two glass sheets.

The Office Action also relies on paragraph 188 of Varaprasad et al. Paragraph 188 discloses that the electrochromic solid films can be used with rearview mirrors that are equipped with various components including an array of light emitting diodes. The paragraph further states that these features can share circuitry and components with the electrochromic mirror circuitry. The paragraph does not teach that the mirror circuitry itself includes LEDs and the clear implication is that the LEDs referenced are outside of the two laminated glass sheets. The paragraph also does not relate back to paragraph 162 and provide any suggestion that the diodes in paragraph 162 could include light emitting diodes. Thus, Varaprasad et al. does not teach or suggest LEDs between laminated glass sheets as recited in claim 22. Varaprasad et al. also does not provide any indication of how (or why) a person of ordinary skill in the art would go about inserting LEDs between the glass sheets of the laminated glazing at all. Instead, Varaprasad et al. does not show or describe any electronic components inside the glazing. Finally, Schaeffer and Brussog also do not suggest or disclose placing an LED between two glass sheets in a laminated glazing.

Accordingly, Varaprasad et al., Brussog, and Schaeffer do not disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 22. It is submitted that independent claim 22, and dependent claims 23-42 which depend on claim 22 respectively, are in condition for allowance.

For the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for claims 22-42 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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